

I have yet my Preface to draw up & finish. It then I finish authorship or editorship

Riverside

11 Dec. 1877

My dear young
friend: I mean,
Elsworth

as I shall venture (no great venture either) to address you in future

I am going from home for my Xmas holiday (like an old school boy as I am) on Thursday, and I shall not be back again until

the 4 Jan; after which
I shall remain at
home till my Birthday
11th Jan, when I shall
enter my 90th year,
as they tell me, for I
have not made the
calculation.

Therefore, if you
happen to address me
in the interval, you
must not expect an
answer, or answer, as
we children (when we
were children) used
to ^{say} call: i.e. to call each

other "goose".

I am writing
badly this morning
as my hands are cold,
but otherwise I am
sufficiently warm &
cheery

My best wishes
to you in the interval,
during which I shall
do no stroke of work
Go you on and pros-
per!

I shall be in the
midst of my nearest &
dearest (not always
the same) relations, at

Epsom (Surrey) & Short-
lands (Kent) your own
country, where I promise
to think of you, if I
do not write to you.

I am writing better
& my hand not so cramped

Good bye for the
present only, I hope

Yours most sincerely

J. Payne Collier

I have never seen
you, and fear to do it,
lest I may not like you.
You must not be a ging,
but single-hearted, and
unaffected, not aiming
at the literary prize